

FINAL

Town of Weare Finance Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of December, 15 2010

This meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Conservation Committee Room of the Town Office and was called to order by the chairman at 7:05 p.m.

In Attendance: Gregg Elwood, Ike Shepard, Jeff Spring, Jill Dagenais, John Rauscher, Johnna Grzywacz, Mark Sullivan, also town administrator Naomi Bolton

Absent: Neal Kurk

1. New member Jill Dagenais was sworn in shortly before the meeting convened
2. November 17th minutes were reviewed – Mark made a motion to approve them and Jill seconded it – all members approved them
3. John Stark summary – John reviewed the changes to the John Stark budget from the last meeting.
 - a. The budget has been cut from over 400k increase down to 101k increase (approximately .75-1% increase).
 - b. The school board discussed in a private session that 7 full time positions may be cut.
 - c. The principal's section did not show any significant cuts but even if there were it would not have a large impact on the overall budget.
 - d. Gregg proposed that we may want to ask them to cut their operating budget by the amount of any warrant articles they may be putting forward.
 - e. Collective bargaining agreements for Teacher's and support staff have not yet been completed so the warrant amounts are not yet known.
4. Weare School summary – Gregg reviewed the changes for the Weare Schools since the last meeting
 - a. Similar to John Stark the operating budget is close to the prior year amounts (it's a .94 increase and had reflected a 1.3% increase at the last meeting – but the majority of the change was due to a correction of a math error on the previous submittal)
 - b. Teacher & Paraprofessionals are still in negotiations so warrant amounts are not known.
 - c. Roof on Center Woods came up and how to fund that – perhaps through a special warrant or through the use of unused funds
 - d. Naomi Bolton shared that there are some funds in trust that could possibly be used by shifting them through warrant articles. Naomi will send to Gregg the listing of funds in trust and he will forward that information to the rest of the committee.
5. Selectmen budget summary – this has not been completed for submittal yet but Naomi shared that overall it is coming in close to last year. In the major categories:

- a. Fire Department – up 42k based on hiring a p/t fire chief, additional fuel costs based on the rotating schedule for EMT's which has had very positive results, the vendor contract for the software for scheduling should easily be covered by the saving on intercepts, the Safety Complex is in great shape as when the people who are on the rotating shift are not on call they are keeping the building and equipment clean and maintained.
 - b. Police Department – Chief Begin was invited but unable to attend. 134.9k increase to be requested based on the cost to maintain 24/7 service. The committee discussed broaching the idea of a warrant article being put forth to reduce the shifts by no longer having 24/7 service. The amount of overtime was discussed and the possibility of hiring additional people thereby having more shifts covered at a reduced cost. Highway Department – up 42K overall – the group discussed asking the board of selectmen to consider exploring the idea of privatization as attrition happens as the majority of the need for staff and equipment is in the winter plowing months
 - c. General– Unemployment, Worker's Compensation and Retirement are the majority of the increases. The committee asked if the town had considered asking employees to pay a portion of their healthcare expense but Naomi explained that the majority of the people are union and the union contract dictates that the town will pay 100%.
6. Discuss warrant articles:
 - a. When – they are still in the consideration phase and need to be to the committee by January 15th
 - b. The way they will be presented to the residents and the general items for the town were discussed. They will be grouped by department and the items so far without amounts (estimated at 375k) are:
 - i. Fire Truck
 - ii. Cruisers
 - iii. Loader/Truck
 - iv. Cemetery
 - v. Defibrillator
 - vi. Hazardous Waste Day
 - vii. Rotary
 - viii. Fireworks
 - ix. Conservation Purchases
7. Discussed upcoming dates:
 - a. Budget Meeting – Weare school: December 21 – 7PM Library
 - b. Public hearing – Weare school : January 11 – 7pm, library
 - c. Deliberative – Weare school : February 8 - 7pm, gym
 - d. Budget Meeting – John Stark: TBD – John will ask if they have one scheduled (one was held on 11-29)
 - e. Public hearing – John Stark: January 13 - 7pm., library
 - f. Deliberative – John Stark: February 9 – 7pm, gym
 - g. Budget Review – Town of Weare: December 27 – 7PM
 - h. Public hearing – Town of Weare: January 17 – 7PM
 - i. Deliberative – Town of Weare: February 5, 9am, gym
8. Discuss with Naomi, town mailer:
 - a. Finance Committee to stay after town Deliberative Session and finalize

- b. Format will be the same as last year – Naomi is in the process of getting bids for this
- 9. Next Meeting – December 29 – 7PM in the Conservation Committee Room. Chief Begin will be invited to join.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Dagenais